

Appl. No. 10/633,807
Amdt. dated August 15, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2005

8894.01-1

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A method for training sports skills for a game conducted on a playing surface that includes striking a game object away from an opponent comprising:
sequentially projecting a plurality of game objects toward one portion of said playing surface for striking by one or more players being trained; and
selectively directing one or more opponents to appear at one or more locations on said playing surface to train said player to strike game objects away from an opponent.

Claim 2 (original): The method of training sports skills of claim 1 wherein said step of directing said one or more opponents to appear comprises operating one or more simulated opponents to simulate the play of one or more players having a selected skill level.

Claim 3 (original): The method of training sports skills of claim 1 wherein said step of sequentially projecting a plurality of said game objects comprises a machine for sequentially projecting a plurality of game objects toward said one portion of said playing surface for striking by said one or more players being trained.

Claim 4 (original): The method of training sports skills of claim 1 wherein said game is selected from a group including ice hockey, soccer, tennis and volleyball.

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Claims 5 - 9 (withdrawn)

Claim 10 (original): A method for training tennis skills of a tennis player comprising:

sequentially projecting a plurality of tennis balls toward one side of a tennis court for return by said tennis player; and

selectively directing one or more opponents to appear at one or more locations on the opposite side of said tennis court to train said tennis player to return tennis balls away from an opponent thereby teaching said tennis player to play the tennis court and training placement memory in the brain of said tennis player in addition to training muscle memory by returning said tennis balls.

Claim 11 (original): The method of training tennis skills of claim 10 wherein said step of sequentially projecting a plurality of tennis balls comprises a trainer sequentially hitting a plurality of tennis balls toward said one side of a tennis court.

Claim 12 (original): The method of training tennis skills of claim 10 wherein said step of selectively directing one or more opponents to appear at one or more locations on the opposite side of said tennis court comprises a trainer directing one or more persons to selectively occupy one or more locations on said opposite side of said tennis court.

Claim 13 (original): The method of training tennis skills of claim 10 wherein one or more tennis ball machines project said plurality of tennis balls, and said step of sequentially

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projecting a plurality of tennis balls includes projecting said tennis balls in selected combinations of direction, speed, elevation and spin.

Claim 14 (original): The method of training tennis skills of claim 10 wherein said step of directing one or more opponents to appear comprises operating one or more simulated opponents to simulate the play of one or more tennis players having a selected skill level.

Claim 15 (original): The method of training tennis skills of claim 14 wherein said step of operating said one or more simulated opponents comprises operating one or more simulated opponents to simulate one or two tennis players moving to a plurality of locations on the opposite side of the tennis court.

Claim 16 (original): The method of training tennis skills of claim 15 wherein said simulated opponents comprise a plurality of stationary simulated opponents located in selected locations on the opposite side of said tennis court and said step of operating said one or more simulated opponents comprises operating selected ones of said simulated opponents to cause an opponent to selectively appear at said one or more of said locations.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method of training tennis skills of claim 15 wherein said simulated opponents comprise one or more movable simulated opponents and said step of operating said one or more simulated opponents comprises operating selected ones of said simulated opponents to move said one or more simulated opponents to selectively appear at one of or more of a plurality of locations on the opposite side of the tennis court.

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Claim 18 (original): The method of training tennis skills of claim 10 wherein said one or more tennis ball machines and said one or more simulated opponents are controlled by a controller and wherein said method includes setting said controller to operate said one or more ball machines and said one or more simulated opponents to simulate one or more tennis players having a selected skill level.

Claim 19 (original): The method of training tennis skills of claim 18 wherein said method includes setting said controller to simulate one or more of the following skill levels, grade school, high school, college, professional, recreational, singles and doubles.

Claim 20 (original): The method of training tennis skills of claim 18 wherein said method includes setting said controller to simulate the play of one or more professional tennis players.

Claims 21 – 50 (withdrawn)